

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-09 SP-02 SS-15
STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 SAS-02 SES-02 SAA-01 /117 W
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DEPT FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ENRG, QA
SUBJECT: GOQ MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM SEEKS CONSULTANT
ON CAUSES OF FIRE AND EXPLOSION OF NGL PLANT

REF: 77 DOHA 441

1. SUMMARY: MR. MEDHAT ABDULATIF, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM HAS URGENTLY REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING U.S. FIRM OR ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF DOING TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION SEEKING CAUSES OF DISASTEROUS FIRE AND EXPLOSION OF QATAR'S FIRST NGL PLANT (NGL-1). END SUMMARY.

2. BACKGROUND: INSURERS OF PROJECT, LLOYDS OF LONDON, SEEM TO BE ABOUT TO EXERCISE THEIR OPTION TO DEMAND THAT GOQ SUE FOR COST OF RECOVERY ALL THIRD PARTIES IN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF NGL-1. THESE THIRD PARTIES, ACCORDING TO MR. MEDHAT, ARE SHELL OIL COMPANY, DAVY POWER GAS, QATAR PETROLEUM COMPANY (QPC) AND WHESOE COMPANY. IN ORDER TO CARRY FORWARD SUIT GOQ WILL HAVE TO COMMISSION INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION OF DESIGN,
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ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION OF NGL-1, AS WELL AS INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE CAUSE(S) OF EXPLOSION AND FIRE WHICH OCCURRED APRIL 4, 1977. END BACKGROUND.

3. MR. MEDHAD IS SPECIFICALLY SEEKING A U.S. FIRM OR ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO MR. MEDHAT, FIRM MUST HAVE NO ASSOCIATIONS WITH ANY OF THE THIRD PARTIES,

EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF NOT HAVING ANY OF THE THIRD PARTIES AS CLIENTS. IN ADDITION, U.S. FIRMS WITH "BRITISH CONNECTIONS", I.E., BRITISH PARTNERS, ASSOCIATES OR SUBSIDIARIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY GOQ.

4. ACCORDING TO MR. MEDHAT, FIRM OR ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE ABLE TO RESPOND IMMEDIATELY AND SHOULD BE READY TO SEND INVESTIGATOR(S) TO QATAR WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. (INITIALLY HE SAID HE WANTED SOMEONE ON THE GROUND IN DOHA WITHIN 48 HOURS BUT LATER MODIFIED TO NEXT FEW DAYS.) REASON FOR SUDDEN RUSH AFTER MORE THAN YEAR OF INACTIVITY IS THAT QATAR ONLY RECENTLY WAS TOLD THAT LLOYDS WAS PREPARING TO EXERCISE OPTION TO DEMAND SUIT. IN MEANWHILE MINISTRY SET IN MOTION PLANS TO REBUILD/REPLACE NGL-1 WITH EXPANDED NGL-2 ON SAME SITE. MEDHAT FEARS THAT, IF INVESTIGATION DOES NOT BEGIN IMMEDIATELY, EVIDENCE MAY BE DESTROYED IN SITE PREPARATION ACTIVITIES.

5. MR. MEDHAT TOLD COMMOFF THAT INVESTIGATING FIRM OR ORGANIZATION WILL HAVE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY CAUSES AND AFTERMATH OF BLAST. HE ASSURED THAT ALL PREVIOUS STUDIES AND REPORTS (INCLUDING CONFIDENTIAL LLOYDS REPORT TO GOQ) WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE.

6. ACTION: NEA/ARP PLEASE CONSULT WITH AID OFFICE FOR REIMBURSIBLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO DETERMINE THEIR CONSULTATIVE RESOURCES IN THIS FIELD. SUGGEST THAT RDP OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCE SHORT LIST OF FIRMS OR ORGANIZATIONS FROM THEIR OWN CONTACTS. (NOTE: ON EARLIER OCCASION RDP CAME UP WITH NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) TEAM WHICH SHOULD ALSO BE ON THIS LIST.) MR. MEDHAT SUGGESTED THAT M.I.T. MAY BE ABLE TO SEND EXPERT(S) AND SEEMED TO PREFER M.I.T. IF IT OFFERS THIS TYPE OF SERVICE. LIST SHOULD INCLUDE: FULL NAME OF FIRM OR ORGANIZATION, MAILING ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, TELEX NUMBER, NAME OF HIGH LEVEL OFFICER WITH WHOM MR. MEDHAT CAN COMMUNICATE. PLEASE SUPPLY TO EMBASSY BY IMMEDIATE CABLE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: EAID, ENRG, QA
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